Tidings

The Concordia University Pagan Society
1455 de Maisonneuve West, suite H-637-3
Montreal, QC, H3G 1M8
(514) 848-7441 (leave a message) - cups@fastmail.ca
OFFICE: 7141 Sherbrooke St. W. Room SC 03-3

JANUARY 2001 Edition

"Doubt is not a pleasant condition, but certainty is absurd."
- Voltaire [François Marie Arouet]

January Events

CUPS Monthly General Meeting

Date: Friday, January 26th
Time: 7PM
Location: 2090 Mackay, room Z-105
Information: Meet up with CUPS as we discuss monthly events and plan for the future. We also have a monthly discussion topic TBA. Come to meet, greet and chat. Go on.... live the adventure.

January Announcements

The 1st CUPS Imbolc fair!

Cups will be holding our first Imbolc fair in the mezzanine of the Hall building on Friday, February 9th, from 9:00am until 5pm. Come join the folks from CUPS at this exciting event. There will be information booths, with information about Paganism and it's holidays and practises, as well as booths offering candles, crafts, jewelery, baked goods and divinations... tarot card , palmistry, and other forms of the mystic arts. It will be followed by a ritual, the time and location of which will be annouced in the next issue of Tidings, and will also be available during the fair itself. See the back side of this issue, to learn a bit more about what Imbolc is all about.

Come share in this holiday with Cups.

Montreal Pagan Resource Center

1928 St. Catherine Street West
Montreal, Quebec. Canada. H3H-1M4
MPRC@TOTAL.NET

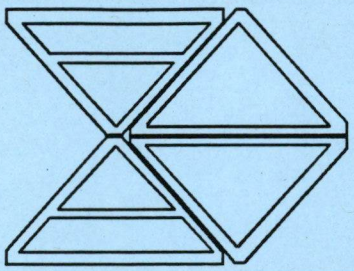
The Montreal Pagan Resource Centre provides a reading-only library for pagans and non-pagans alike to consult. A pot of coffee and tea will always be available, as will contact information about professionals and artisans within the city. The centre will be a meeting place for all traditions within the pagan community of Montreal, a place for teaching, sharing and learning.

Further information, including events scheduales and volunteer forms available on-line at http://www.mprc.paganuniverse.com/

Montreal Grove Esbats and Rituals

Each month, the Montreal Grove hosts public Full Moon rits, as well as a public Sabbat Rituals. Details can be found on their web site at http://www.cam.org/~lokigui/

"Don't say you don't have enough time. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Helen Keller, Pasteur, Michaelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson, and Albert Einstein."
- H. Jackson Brown



Got content?

Submissions for Tidings

Submissions for Tidings may be made by e-mail to cups@fastmail.ca, in TEXT format, or to our postal address as listed on the top-front of this newsletter. Bear in mind that our publication is black and white. Deadline is 7 days before our monthly general meeting, as listed in the EVENTS section of this newsletter.

Imbolc: It's origins and meanings.

Imbolc doesn't fit into the Pagan calander the way that most holidays do. Rather than celebrating a specific event, or seasonal change, it is more of a celebration of the Goddess herself, as she slowly nurtures her new born child (the sun) into the strong God that he will someday be, as she slowly turns the wheel, bring spring to replace winter. It is a time of healing, as the snow begins to melt, and nature replaces that which was lost to the cold. (It's hard for us to imagine February as being a warming month, in our climate, but for our ancestors, early February marked the first signs, not of spring, but that there would be a spring.)

Does this sound familliar to you? It should, it's also the probable origins of ground hog day. Much of the magick practiced on or around Imbolc is what is called sympathetic magick, it's purpose being to coax the sun to return to it's full warmth and brilliance. Like this form of Magick, watching for the ground hog is also a form of magick. It's reaction to the outside world, to it's own shadow, will foretell the coming of spring. This is called divination (much like tarot cards.)

Another holiday connection that has to be pointed out is Valentine's day. Valentine's was established in the 5th cenuary CE by the Catholic church, Like most Christian holidays,the date itself was chosen to coincide with the pagan holidays. In this case, it was Imbolc, as celebrated by the Romans and Greeks, who chose this date to celebrate Venus and Aphrodite, both Goddesses of love.

For more information about Imbolc, and how it is celebrated, we invite you to join us on the mezzanine of the Hall building on February 9th. We will be there to answer your question, about both our holidays and about Paganism in general.

Honey Cake (traditional French Imbolc receipe)

- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 2 1/2 tsps baking powder
- 1 heaping tsp. Allspice
- 3/4 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/8 tsp. nutmeg
- 1 tsp. ground ginger
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 1 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup safflower oil
- 1 cup raw honey

Icing (optional)

- 1 1/4 cups unsweetened orange juice
- 1 tBL. milk
- 2 cups icing sugar

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Mix all of the ingrediants well, and pour them into a greased 9X13 pan, and bake for 45 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the middle of the cake comes out dry.

Traditionally, this cake is served as is, but you can make a simple frosting by blending 1the orange juice, milk and icing sugar.